



- (51) **International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:** G07F 11/02 (81) **Designated States (national):** AL, AG, AI, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GI, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SI, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) **International Application Number:** PCT/EP2003/008379 (84) **Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GI, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(22) **International Filing Date:** 29 July 2003 (29.07.2003)

(25) **Filing Language:** English

(26) **Publication Language:** English

(71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US):** AMS AUTOMATIC MINIBAR SYSTEMS LTD. [GB/GB]; 468 Malton Avenue, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4QU (GB).

(72) **Inventor; and**

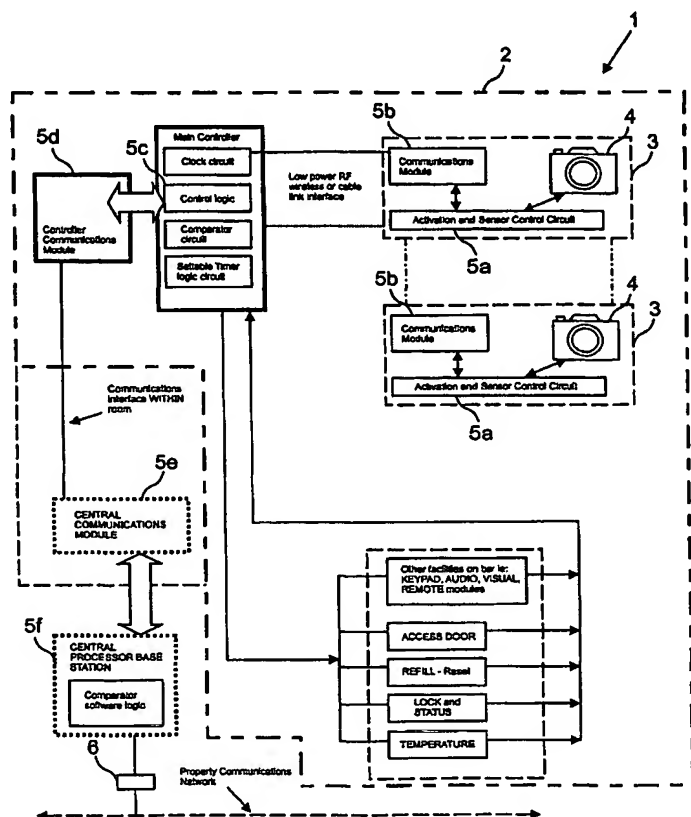
(75) **Inventor/Applicant (for US only):** GIBB, David [GB/GB]; c/o Ams Automatic Minibar Systems Ltd., 468 Malton Avenue, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4QU (GB).

(74) **Agents:** GROSSE, W. et al.; Forstenrieder Allee 59, 81476 München (DE).

**Published:**  
— with international search report

*[Continued on next page]*

- (54) Title: COMPUTERISED-SENSING SYSTEM FOR A MINI BAR**



**(57) Abstract:** Dispensing system with at least on dispenser (1) for articles that are available to be dispensed, preferably in form of a mini bar, an administering system for billing articles and/or administering the stock of the articles to be dispensed, or a least an interface (6) to such an administering system, whereby said dispenser (1) comprises at least one store area (3). Said one store area (3) allows the simultaneous storing of several preferably different articles, whereby the articles can be removed and placed back after inspection by the customer. As long as the customer only inspects the articles he will not be charged for the selling price of the articles. The articles can be freely positioned on the store area (3), whereby said store area is monitored by a detection device which is able to detect at least after a certain time whether an article has been removed. This detection works independently from the positions in said store area occupied by remaining articles and occupied formally by said removed article. Said detection device comprises a detecting sensor arrangement (4) that generates a signal enabling to calculate the removal of said removed article and a data processing unit (5) processing said signal by comparing it with stored data determining thus the removal of said removed article for the purpose of billing.

